Bur Oak Blight (BOB)

Wedge shaped lesions and necrotic lesions.

Dead leaves remaining.

https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/2012/9-12/buroakblight.html

The Fungus

Bur Oak Blight is caused by the fungus, *Tubakia iowensis*, and overwinters in dead leaves that remain on trees[1]. In the spring, rain carries spores to infect new trees[1]. *Quercus macrocarpa*, bur oak, is the only species affected.

Signs & Symptoms

- Purple lesions develop in the veins on the underside of leaves.
- Wedge-shaped sections of chlorosis and necrosis form on leaves.
- Dead leaves remain on the tree overwinter.
- Black fruiting structures form on leaf veins[2].

Positive Identification

Bur Oak Blight shares many symptoms with other biotic and abiotic diseases, so positive diagnosis is important. Samples can be collected and sent to the University of Minnesota Plant Disease Clinic for positive identification[3].

Implications for Minnesota

There are many old, aesthetically-pleasing bur oak trees in Minnesota that are all susceptible to the disease. Without management and control practices, these trees could succumb to the disease and disrupt Minnesota landscapes.

Management & Control Considerations

- Apply fungicides to reduce risk of infection.
- Boost tree vigor with regular mulching and watering.
- Be wary of secondary invaders such as Two-lined Chestnut Borer and Armillaria that can infect BOB-affected trees.
- Send samples to the Plant Disease Clinic to ensure proper diagnosis of the disease.

Sources

1) http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/info/plant-diseases/bur-oak-blight
2) https://www.na.fs.fed.us/pubs/palerts/bur_oak_blight/bob_print.pdf
3) https://pdc.umn.edu/

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